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Info:

Following is US evaluation recently concluded NAC Ministerial and you repeat may Western Summit meetings, substance of which may, at your discretion and convey in manner you deem appropriate, ~~transmit~~ to officials of government to which you are accredited.

1. We consider NAC Ministerial Meeting which took place December 15-17 and December 22 to have been one of most useful in recent past. Discussion throughout was constructive, vigorous and frank.

2. One highlight of NAC Ministerial Meeting was agreement undertake long-term planning of objectives of Alliance in political, military, scientific and economic fields and in regard to arms control. Adoption this proposal designed consider ways and means further enhance ability of Alliance to counter versatile Soviet threat. Fact suggestion advanced by US points up long-range view US takes of NATO. Decision also reflects recognition by member countries NATO is continuously evolving vital instrument designed safeguard security member countries and exert its influence for maintenance of peace generally. Long-range planning not rpt not intended result in hard dramatic decisions but rather as means focus ~~point~~ attention member governments on factors to be considered in

(a) long-range

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(a) long-range development Atlantic Community, (b) strengthening friendly relations between individual member countries and other countries of free world and (c) long-term development relations with Soviet bloc. This concept distinct from day to day consultation on current problems already practiced in NATO.

3. NAC meeting provided opportunity for US make clear it considers its own security continues to be intimately linked to that of other NATO countries. Secretaries Herter and Gates gave other member governments categorical assurance that as long as NATO collective security system exists and continues command loyal participation its other members it is US policy maintain US troops as effective part NATO shield in Europe.

4. NATO Council reaffirmed principles set out in its statement on Berlin of December 16, 1958. There was complete agreement in NAC that while Soviet intentions should be put to test in forthcoming East-West Summit meeting strength of the Alliance and vigilance continue to be essential. Discussion in NAC revealed general consensus that process negotiations with Soviets is likely to be long one and that it would be unfortunate to raise excessive public expectations as to the possible outcome of ~~the~~ planned April 27 meeting.

5. At Western Summit (December 19-21), US, UK, French and Federal German Heads of Government and State agreed propose to Khrushchev holding of summit conference April 27 and reached agreement on procedures to be followed in preparation for summit. While Western four will continue between now and April discuss details of positions they will take at summit, Paris meeting appears have established framework within which this consultative work will take place. Framework characterized

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characterized by general agreement that West will be prepared discuss disarmament and problem of reunification Germany, and problem of Berlin within that context. US believes April summit will be essentially probing operation in which Soviet attitude towards reunification of Germany will be pretty much acid ^{test} ~~test~~ of Soviet intentions. With regard to Berlin, US would be willing examine and even negotiate on any new Berlin proposal advanced by Soviets but would certainly not rpt not be ready accept anything that did not rpt not maintain or improve status of Berliners. With regard to disarmament, ten-nation disarmament committee will have begun its talks in Geneva only six weeks before date proposed for summit and it is uncertain whether it will have pinpointed its findings sufficiently for discussion by heads of government.

In sum, US expectation is that course of summit will make it possible to judge seriousness of Soviet intentions and desires to achieve a genuine reduction of tensions.

There are
/ somewhat sensational press reports re alleged dissatisfaction other NATO members that they not rpt not fully consulted on plans for summit. ~~and~~
~~NAC~~
~~expressed full support for position~~
adopted by four governments and agreement with arrangements made for full consultation with all NATO member governments.

6. As regards discussions military subjects NAC communique statement that QTE current NATO defense plans remain valid UNQTE is significant. Plans referred to this statement based on agreed force levels and existing NATO strategic concepts providing for maximum integration in joint defense planning and operations.

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Communique statement that determined effort required guarantee necessary strength of Alliance and that this essential task certainly within ability of Alliance as a whole reflects (a) recognition substantial economic progress made recent years under protection NATO collective security and (b) determination member countries continue develop joint defense effort.

7. Continued NATO interest in comprehensive controlled disarmament reflected in communique as well as by reference to arms control in proposal for long-term planning of objectives of Alliance.

8. Sensational and misleading press reporting re QTE integration UNQTE has tended produce distorted picture of Alliance and obscured important facts. NATO has always determined organization its defense effort in free discussion and consultation among its members. At this time I almost all member governments agree certain additional steps forward should be taken further improve organizational structure specifically as it relates to air defense of Europe. This is not rpt not question of any member government wishing take steps which would undo what has been accomplished until now but rather question of further forward motion. Fact also remains NATO defense/posture in terms manpower, training, equipment, organization and weapons is today incomparably more effective than it was ten years ago particularly as regards availability modern weapons in which very substantial progress made past two years.

9. On general subject alleged disunity in NATO also useful recall settlement Cyprus issue which a year ago was featured by sensational press as threatening Alliance as well as close unity of Western four during ^{Geneva} ~~General~~ Foreign Ministers Conference

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Conference earlier this year.

10. Foregoing may also be used as you consider desirable in briefing press on background basis. Re special economic communique by four Heads of State and Government see separate earlier guidance messages this subject.

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